



**FEBRUARY, 2012  
NEWSLETTER**

# **WRITERS WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**  
Harlingen Public Library Auditorium, 410 '76 Drive, Harlingen, TX



## **Featuring Laurel Bill**

**Award-winning journalist and  
author of *Aunt Phil's Trunk*, an Alaskan  
history book series**

**Registration fee is \$40.**

**Prior to February 4, you may mail checks payable to  
Valley Byliners to:**

**Valley Byliners  
c/o Jose Alvarez  
130 Pizarro Ave.  
Rancho Viejo, TX 78575**

**After February 4, you may pay at the Workshop at  
8:30 a.m.**

### **How to:**

- Choose your topic
- Identify your audience
- Research the market
- Make your prose sparkle
- Find a great copy editor

### **Pros and cons of:**

- Mainstream publishing
- On-demand publishing
- Physical self-publishing
- E-books

### **Marketing tips to:**

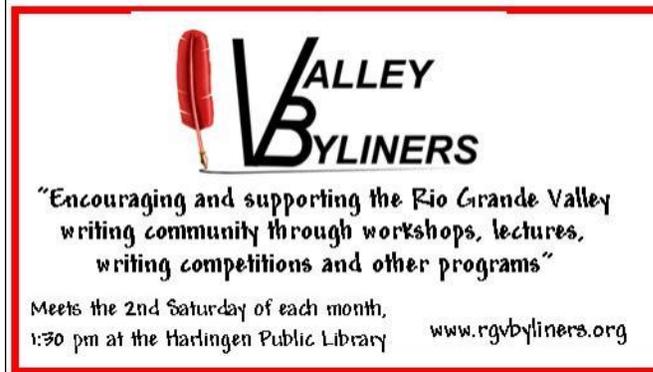
- Create a stellar marketing plan
- Organize successful book signings
- Network through social media
- Develop impressive press packages
- Make the most of reviews
- Speak to local groups and book clubs
- And lots more!!

**Order a brown bag lunch at  
the Workshop for only \$5**



The **Byliners** have a new logo, designed by **Jack King**, and a mission statement proposed by **Jose Alvarez** and massaged slightly by the “committee.”

This will be our new business card:



The Valley Byliners are now Associate Members of The Harlingen Chamber of Commerce.

Watch for the “Business Matters” supplement in the Sunday Valley Morning Star.

**Sue Groves, Byliners President**, initiated this as another way for us to publicize our events and make our presence known to the community at large.

The Chamber sends out a lot of emails. Your newsletter editor is re-sending only the “Monday Memo” to the Byliner Membership. We aim to protect your privacy and not pass on your email addresses to anyone.

*We personally find the “Monday Memo” to be informative and timely but you may not feel the same. Each time we re-send the “Monday Memo” there is a line at the top of the page where you can send the newsletter editor an email and ask us not to continue sending you the “Monday Memo.”*



We received an email from Gene Novogrodsky about the spring schedule for the **Narciso Martinez Cultural Arts Center Writers Form, (NMCACWF)**.

NMCACWF Dates - And all are invited

**January 21st**, Saturday, 6 p.m., Mel's book - Selected Chicano Poetry - Y Que - debut at the center ....

**February 7th**, 7 p.m., First Tuesday NMCACWF at the center ....

**February 18th**, 6 p.m., Saturday, Queta's birthday! - at the center ....

**March 6th**, 7 p.m., First Tuesday NMCACWF at the center ....

**March 17th**, 6 p.m., Women's History Month and ALL women are invited to read at the center; contact Rita, beto-conde@hotmail.com or 350 3905 if you plan to read; again, women will read, men will listen!

**April 14th**, 6 p.m., at the center; this night traditionally replaces April's First Tuesday, and is part of Poetry Month; contact Beto, beto\_conde@hotmail.com or 350 3905 if you plan to read.

Beto, Mel and Queta are the 2012 tri-facilitators. Thanks Robin for your work as tri-facilitator. Thanks all who made the annual Second Sunday potluck, meeting, reading quite the late-afternoon into early night ....

As ever, bring announcements, news ....

Scribe, Gene

**Last Month's speaker was Pat McGrath Avery.**

Pat demonstrated some of the ways she keeps her stories "alive."

Pat's extensive work about individuals who were involved in the military adventures of WWII, Korea and Viet Nam was of particular interest to several vets attending our meeting who have projects of their own in the works.

Pat stressed the importance of understanding the fine line between creative non-fiction and fictionalizing events that actually occurred but not exactly as written or as remembered. The line is easily crossed and all the facts must be verified. Memories change and the same event can be remembered differently by different people who experienced the same event at the same time. And memories change over time and the recollections change with the retelling. It is the writer's job to verify and verify again. Otherwise it may not be creative non-fiction, but fanciful fiction. Our time ran out and we were left wanting more.

**Looking Ahead**

Jan. 29 2 pm on KMBH Radio 88.9 FM~~

**Corazon Bilingue** with **Laurel Bill** and **Brenda Riojas**

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Feb.4 8 am **Laurel Bill** book signing at Park Place Estates Craft Fair **5401 W. Business Hwy 83**

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Feb 7 and March 6

**Narciso Martinez Cultural Arts Center Writers Forum**  
225 E Stenger St., San Benito on the first Tuesday of the month, 7-9 pm

**Feb 11-Valley Byliners Work Shop:**  
**"Get that Book Published!"**

**March 10—Valley Byliners Meeting**  
**Edward Vidaurre "The Barrio Poet",**

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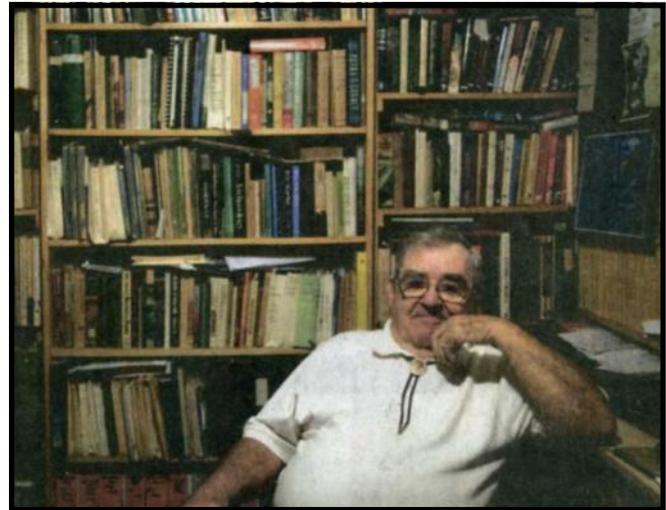
For a list of more events that Valley writers might be interested in, check out **Edgar Clinton's** website, [Writers of the Rio Grande](#).

**The Bragging Corner**

*Been published? Been Given an Honorary Doctorate? Person of the year award? Whatever, here is the place to let us know about it.*



**Don Clifford** was featured in *Slice of Life* in **The Valley Morning Star**, Jan. 25



Way to go **Don!** Looking very literary!

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**Laurel Bill** has been selling her books and **promoting our upcoming workshop**. On January 11 she was interviewed by **Mario Munoz** for **KMBH**. On January 14 she was at **Paragraphs**. She was at **Jackson Street Antiques** Saturday the 21st (see photo below)



**Laurel** will be at **Books and Things** on Saturday the 28th of January. She will be on the air with **Brenda Riojas** on **KMBH**, Sunday Jan. 29 at 2 pm.

**Valley Byliner dues for 2012 are now due.**  
**Send your \$20 check made out to the Valley Byliners to:**  
**Jose Alvarez**  
**130 Pizarro Ave.**  
**Rancho Viejo, Tx 78575**  
**or bring it to the workshop.**



The winner of January's Writers Challenge was "Missing Again" by **Frank Cortazo**.

The other entries were:

- "Oberlin Kansas" by **Joan Soggie**
- "Come On-A My House" by **Marianna Nelson**
- "Little Green Rednecks" by **Hugh Barlow**

### Next Month's Writing Challenge

*For Valley Byliners Members*

Send your short story, poem, reminiscence, essay etc., of not more than **1500** words, by Feb. 6, to **Edna** at: **writerscontest2012@gmail.com**.

- Edna will re-send your entry, sans the author's name, to the membership.
- Each member can cast his or her vote by sending an e-mail to Edna or by voting in person at the Valley Byliners meeting.
- The winning author will receive \$10.00.
- Many of the stories submitted for the challenge will be included in our next book.

### Please note

Every third month the Writing Challenge accepts works up to 4000 words in length. These months are:

- **March**
- **June**
- **September**
- **December**